

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 CIAE-00 H-03

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SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 ACDA-19 MC-02 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5069

DOD WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

S E C R E T SAN SALVADOR 1192

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: SECURITY ASSISTANCE OBJECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

REF: STATE 31505

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

DEPT ALSO PASS AID

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTTEL, I HAVE AGAIN REVIEWED THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AS OUTLINED IN THE 1976-80 POM AND IN THE FY 1975-76 CASP FOR EL SALVADOR. AS DISCUSSED IN BOTH DOCUMENTS, THE NEED FOR A MODEST SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CONTINUES TO BE JUSTIFIED ON POLITICAL GROUNDS. THE SALVADORAN MILITARY WILL REMAIN A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL EQUATION FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE AND TECHNICAL AND FMS CREDIT ASSISTANCE THROUGH OUR MILITARY MISSION WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL MEANS OF MAINTAINING ACCESS TO AND STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THIS IMPORTANT INSTITUTION. I BELIEVE THE PROJECTED MIX OF ASSISTANCE BETWEEN TRAINING AND SALES TO BE

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REASONABLE AND TAILORED TO THE ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY OF THE GOES.

US ASSISTANCE TO THE MILITARY HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE IN FURTHERING OUR INTERESTS; A CONTINUED SMALL SCALE SALES/TRAINING PROGRAM OVER THE POM TIME FRAME WILL CONTINUE TO ENABLE US TO DO SO.

2. FOREIGN PUBLIC ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR EL SALVADOR DURING THE PERIOD FY 1976-80 SHOULD AVERAGE ABOUT \$30 MILLION A YEAR. OF THIS, WE BELIEVE USG (AID) TRANSFERS WILL ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT \$4 MILLION; THOSE FROM THIRD COUNTRIES, EXCEPT JAPAN, WILL BE INSIGNIFICANT AND WILL CONSIST CHIEFLY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THE BALANCE WILL COME FROM INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, E.G. IDB, CABEI, WORLD BANK, ETC. WHETHER OR NOT JAPANESE ASSISTANCE BECOMES A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR DEPENDS ON THE FATE OF THE PROPOSED COMALAPA INTERNATIONAL JETPORT FOR WHICH THE GOES IS CURRENTLY REQUESTING LOW-INTEREST GOJ FINANCING OF UP TO \$24 MILLION. REGARDING THIRD COUNTRY MILITARY ASSISTANCE, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE GOES WILL TURN ON OCCASIONS TO THIRD COUNTRY SOURCES OF SUPPLY IF THEY OFFER PREFERENTIAL TERMS, SUCH AS ISRAEL APPARENTLY ACCORDED THE GOES IN THE RECENT SALES OF TRAINING, COMBAT AND TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH TRANSACTIONS WILL BE FAIRLY MODEST.

3. THE ESTIMATED \$30 MILLION ANNUAL RATE OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE REPRESENTS AN APPROXIMATE 50 PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE ANNUAL DRAWINGS DURING THE 1970-72 PERIOD. HOWEVER, SINCE THE GOES CURRENT FIVE YEAR PLAN ASSUMES 54 PERCENT OF FOREIGN PUBLIC FINANCING, AND ITS PUBLIC INVESTMENT BUDGETS THROUGH FY 1978 AVERAGE \$70 MILLION 1972 DOLLARS, WE BELIEVE IT IS A REALISTIC ESTIMATE. ONLY THE GOES' FAILURE TO ADJUST TO THE HIGHER PETROLEUM IMPORT BILL COULD, IN OUR VIEW, JEOPARDIZE THE EXTERNAL ACCOUNT IN THE PLANNING PERIOD. HOWEVER, FROM THE CURRENT EXTERNAL DEBT SERVICE RATIO (IN PERCENT) OF SOME 3.0 AND TOTAL PUBLIC DEBT TO GDP RATIO OF SOME 15.0 THERE IS NO REASON FOR CONCERN THAT THESE DISBURSEMENT RATES WILL BE EXCESSIVE TO ABSORPTIVE AND REPAYMENT ABILITIES. NEITHER IS IT THE LEVEL THAT, ISOLATED FROM OTHER FACTORS, WOULD RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT INCREMENTAL INFLATIONARY RATES. EVEN IF THE GOES ACTUALLY USES ALL OF THE FMS CREDIT PROJECTED THROUGH 1979 (MAXIMUM TOTALLING \$8 MILLION), REPAYMENT SHOULD NOT OVERLY BURDEN ITS DEBT SERVICING CAPABILITIES.

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